

경추외상후 수핵탈출편에 의한 척수손상*

김 근 수

= Abstract =

Spinal Cord Injury by Ruptured Disc Particles in Cervical Spinal Trauma

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The incidence and definite criteria of posttraumatic cervical disc herniation is still uncertain. Not infrequently, ruptured posttraumatic cervical disc particles play important role on the cervical cord injury. In a prospective study, 23 patients of cervical spinal cord injury were evaluated preoperatively by magnetic resonance imaging(MRI) to reveal the incidence, developing mechanism, and radiographic results of posttraumatic cervical disc herniation, and severity of spinal cord damage by ruptured disc particles and usefulness of preoperative cervical MRI.

All of the patients, who showed abnormal neurological signs consistent in cervical spinal cord injury, were evaluated preoperatively by cervical MRI within 24 hours after trauma. MRI was also taken after reduction in patients with cervical dislocation. The criteria for identifying posttraumatic disc herniation was limited to ruptured disc. Diffuse bulging disc or degenerated cervical stenosis was not considered as posttraumatic disc herniation.

MRI demonstrated 7 patients(30%) with spinal cord compression by ruptured disc particles. Compressed spinal cord showed intramedullary swelling and localized high signal intensity by T2-weighted images. All of the patients with ruptured disc particles were operated by anterior approach and intervertebral fusion as soon as possible. Preoperatively, 6 patients showed incomplete spinal cord injury(Frankel's grade B-D); 5 patients showed one Frankel's grade improvement postoperatively. No patients worsened after reduction of cervical dislocation.

These results suggest that ruptured disc particle is one of the main causes of cervical spinal cord injury which can be easily identified by MR imaging. It is author's opinion that early removal of ruptured particle compressing the spinal cord can be important factor to improve the neurologic status. The author recommends prompt preoperative MR imaging study for the patient with suspected acute cervical spinal cord injury.

KEY WORDS : Cervical spine trauma · Cervical disc herniation · Spinal cord injury · MRI.

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1)10)16)18)20)

2

3. 탈출된 수핵편에 의한 척수손상의 평가 T2 가

가 가

Frankels grade⁷⁾

가 .

4. 경추외상의 기전 분류

대상 및 방법

1. 대상환자

95 1 96 12

45

(1.5 - tesla, Siemens)

23

가
가

22

가

24

2. 외상성 경추간판탈출의 확인

가

(flexion) , (extension) ,
(compression) , (flexion compression)

Table 1. Summary of patients with cervical spinal cord injuries with or with out ruptured cervical disc herniations (N=23)

	Without disc herniation	With disc herniation
No. of patients	16	7
Sex(male : female)	10 : 6	7 : 0
Age	39 (19 - 67)	39 (27 - 52)
Cause of trauma		
motor vehicle accident	10	6
falling down	3	1
etc(slip down, diving)	3	0
Injury mechanism		
flexion	9	5
extension	3	0
compression	1	0
flexion compression	3	1
uncertain mechanism	0	1
Neurologic status		
complete injury	4	1
incomplete injury	12	6
Types of bony lesion		
compression fracture	0	0
burst fracture	3	0
fracture-dislocation	8	3
dislocation	2	3
no bony lesion	3	1

결 과

가 1 . 23 7 (30%)

1. 탈출된 수핵편에 의한 척수손상 빈도(Table 1, 2)

39 (27 52)

23 가 6 1

. 23 가 17 가 6

2. 수핵편에 의한 경수손상시 척추외상기전

39(19 67)

23

가 16 가 , 4 ,

Table 2. Demographic and clinical characteristics in 7 patients with cervical spinal cord injuries by ruptured disc particles

Case no.	Sex (M/F)	Age (Yrs)	Disc level	Injury mechanism	Duration of follow-up(months)	Pre-op. Frankel's Grade	Post-Op. Frankel's Grade
1	M	30	3/4	?	10	A	A
2	M	52	3/4	Flexion	15	D	E
3	M	38	5/6	Flexion	18	C	D
4	M	40	5/6	Flexion	15	B	C
5	M	57	5/6	Flex.-comp.*	16	D	D
6	M	30	6/7	Flexion	17	C	D
7	M	27	6/7	Flexion	13	C	D

? : No evidence of vertebral bony abnormality.

*Flex.-comp. : Flexion and compression

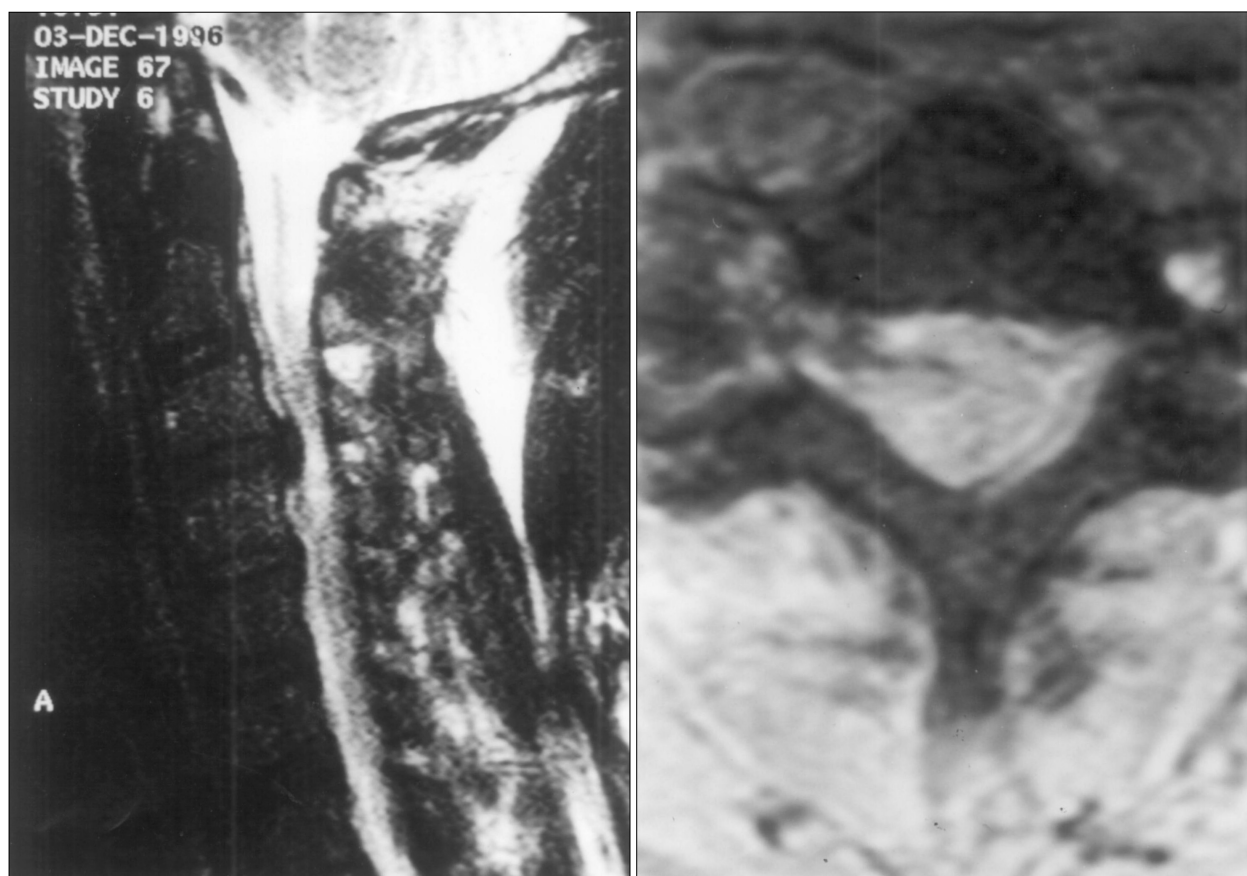


Fig. 1. Magnetic resonance images obtained in a 30-year-old man with normal vertebral alignment and Frankel grade A weakness after motor vehicle accident(case 1). Preoperative MR sagittal(left) and axial(right) images show spinal cord compression by ruptured disc. Intramedullary signal intensity is high in T2-wighted image. The patient did not improve after operation.

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8 , 2),
가 3 ,
1 , (1 (Fig. 4)
- 3 , 3) 가 6 1 (Fig. 2)
7 6
1 T2
가 가 가
(Table 2). 가
(Fig. 1 - 4).
23 16
9 , 3 , 1
3 7
5 , 1 ,
가 1 (Table 1).
3. 자기공명촬영상 수핵편에 의한 척수손상의 양상
(Fig. 1 & 4) (Fig. 3 & 5)
4. 수술전후의 신경학적 호전정도
23 20
(anterior spinal cord syndrome)
(central cord syndrome)
3 7 6
1 . 1
(Fig. 2).
가

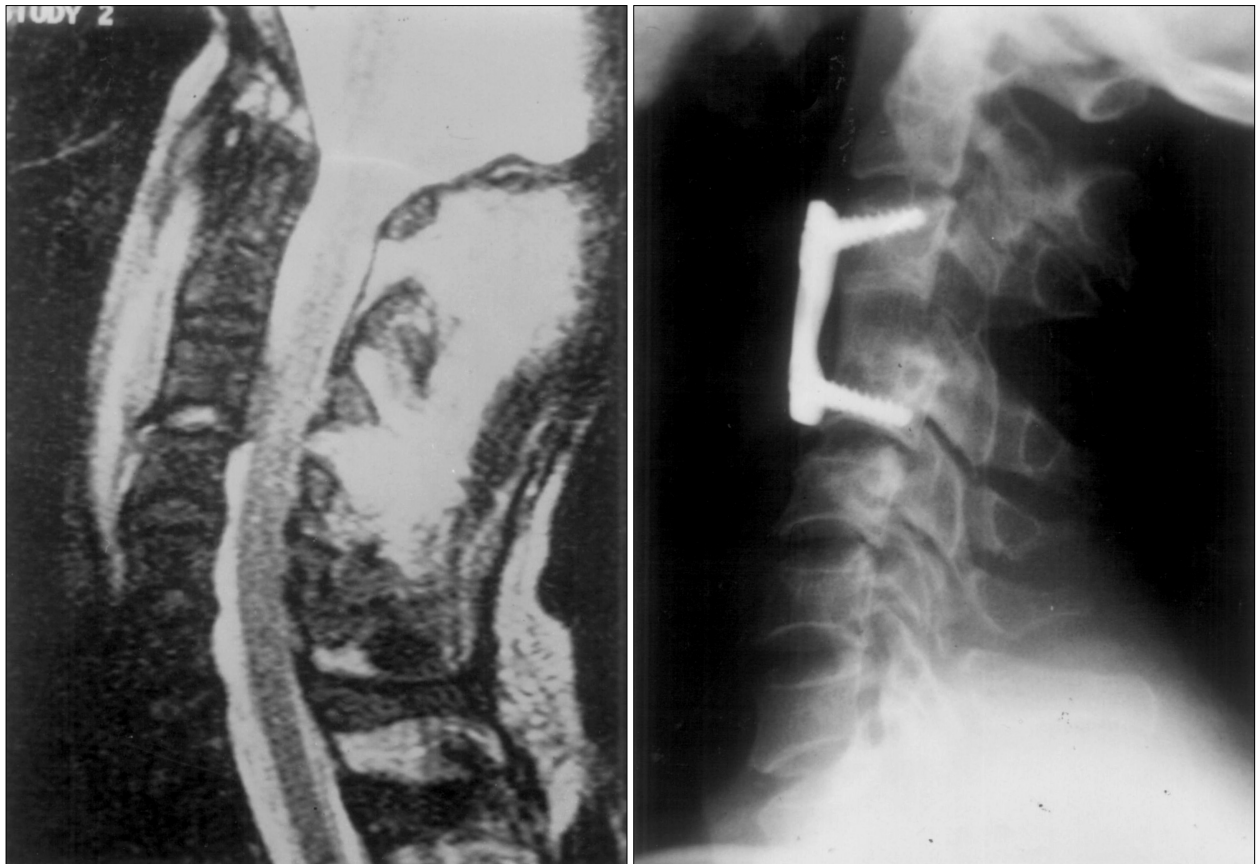


Fig. 2. Magnetic resonance image and plain x-ray films obtained in a 52-year-old man with C3/4 flexion injury and Frankel grade D weakness after falling down(case 2). Left : preoperative MR image revealing spinal cord compression by intracanalicular ruptured disc particle and posterior interspinous disruption. Right : postoperative plain x-ray film shows stable intervertebral bony fusion. The patient improved to Frankel Grade E after removal of ruptured disc particle.



Fig. 3. Magnetic resonance images obtained in a 38-year-old man with C5/6 flexion injury and Frankel grade C weakness after motorvehicle accident(case 3). Left : preoperative MR image revealing spinal cord compression by ruptured disc and compressed C6 vertebral body. Right : postoperative MR image shows decompressed spinal cord with intramedullary malacia. The patient improved to Frankel Grade D after spinal cord decompression.

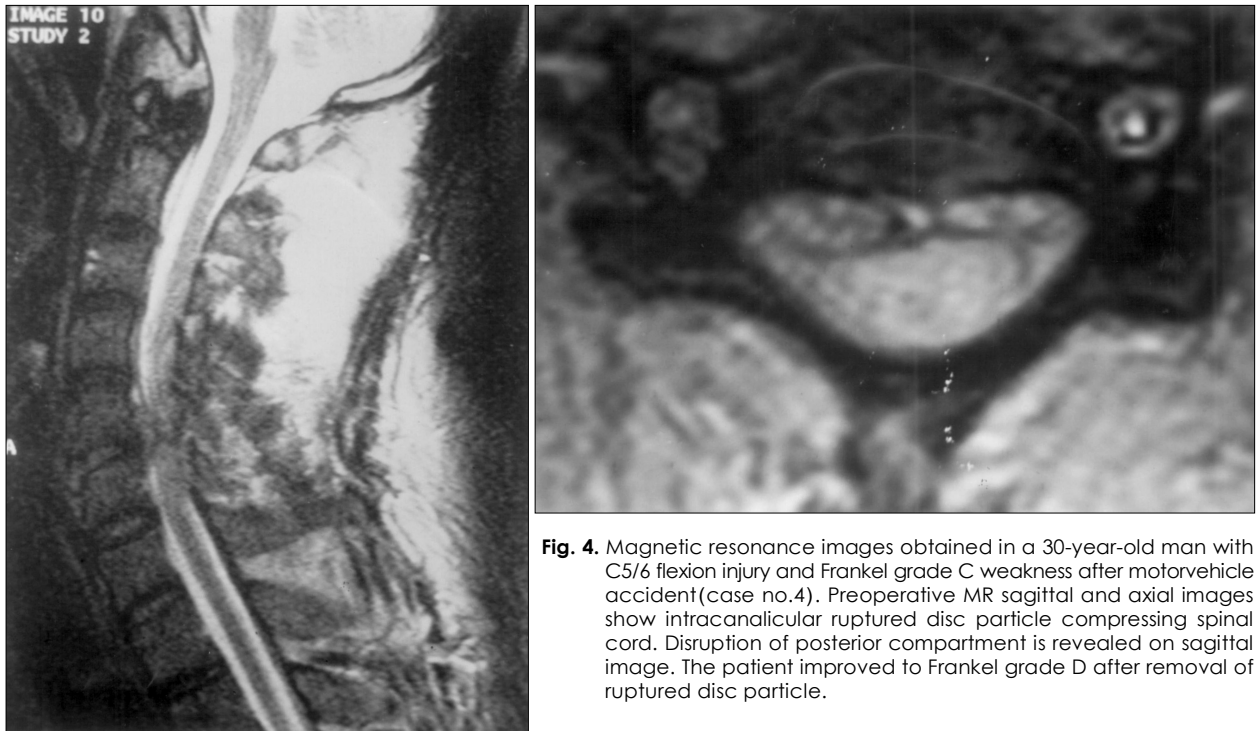


Fig. 4. Magnetic resonance images obtained in a 30-year-old man with C5/6 flexion injury and Frankel grade C weakness after motorvehicle accident(case no.4). Preoperative MR sagittal and axial images show intracanalicular ruptured disc particle compressing spinal cord. Disruption of posterior compartment is revealed on sagittal image. The patient improved to Frankel grade D after removal of ruptured disc particle.

				(Table 1).			
				(Frankels grade A)			
				가			
				(Frankels grade B,			
				C, D) 6			
				5			
				1			
				(Table 2).			
				고			
				찰			
				1. 경추외상에서 급성외상성 수핵탈출과 척수손상			

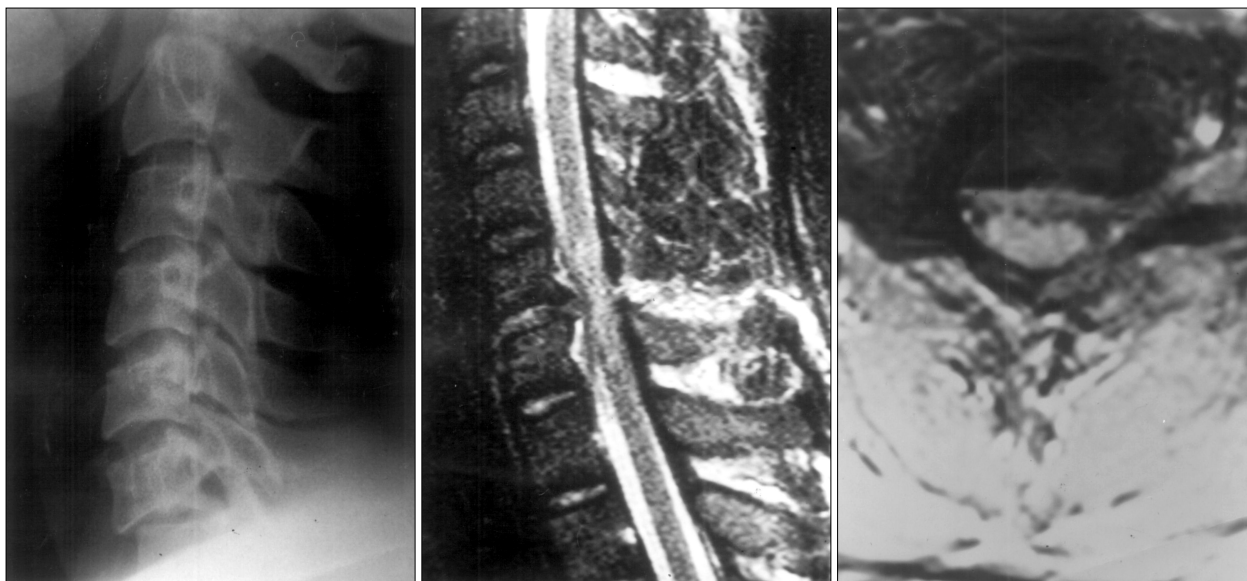


Fig. 5. Magnetic resonance images and plain x-ray films obtained in a 30-year-old man with C6/7 flexion injury and Frankel grade C weakness after motor vehicle accident(case 7). Left : preoperative initial plain x-ray film shows C6/7 subluxation by flexion injury. Middle & right : preoperative MR sagittal and axial images revealing ruptured disc particle, which is sharply compressing spinal cord, and posterior interspinous disruption. The patient improved to Frankel Grade D after removal of ruptured disc particle.

Table 3. Reported incidence of traumatic cervical disc herniation in patients with cervical cord injuries

Authors	Year	Population (No. of cases)	Diagnostic method	Incidence
Schaefer et al	1989	78	MRI	38%
Kim et al	1990	10	MRI	10%
Pratt et al	1990	19	CT/MRI	47.4%
Harrington et al	1991	37	CT/MRI	35%
Rizzolo et al	1991	55	MRI	42%
Author	1998	23	MRI	30%

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가
1)
10 1
Harrington ¹¹⁾ 37 35% , Pratt ²¹⁾ 19
47.4% , Rizzolo ²²⁾ 55 42% , Schaefer ²³⁾
78 38%
(Table 3).

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(가)

T2가
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가 가 .

6

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23 7 1 10¹⁾

(30%) Harrington¹¹⁾

가 6 1

11)21 - 23)

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Harrington¹¹⁾ 37

T2가 가 가 가

35% 1)4)9)13)

6

47% 1 (Fig. 4)

가 가

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18 6

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6 5

Frankels grade가 1 가

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12)

1)2)4)6)8)14)16)17)19)21)

Levitt 17) 33

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Pratt ²¹⁾ 19. Pratt ²¹⁾ 19

. Rizzolo ²²⁾ 55

9 (47.4%)

Doran ⁵⁾ 5 locked

facet

3

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가

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locked facet

locked facet 가

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가

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